THOMSON
THE GREAT KILD,
Or a Perfect
NARATIVE
OF
The totall Routing of the Levellers neere VVellingborough towards Rutlandſhire, where were taken all the whole party, with the deſperate Death of Captaine *THOMSON*, alſo his laſt Speech before his Death;

Being a full *RELATION* of all the proceedings betweene His Excellency the L. *Fairfax* and the Levellers, ſince his Excellencies advance from *London*, Thurſday *May* 10. to their Routing and ſurpritall *May*, 21.

VVith the particulars of that engagement, and the Priſoners taken.

Alſo his Excellencies the Lord Generals Letter to the Speaker concerning the ſame.

Publiſhed by ſpeciall Authority.

LONDON,
Printed for *George Roberts* dwelling on Snow-hill.
1649.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Oxford May the 20, 1649.

THis morning as the Generall was going to the Church Capt. *Moody* brought a Letter from Col. *Reynolds*, who was sent in pursuit after *Thompson*, wherein it was signified that Major *Butler* being sent with a select party of horse to fall into *Thompsons* quarters, he being gon from Northampton to a Town neer Wellingborough towards Rutlandshire, where he surprized all his party in the Towne, but *Thomson* mounted and got into a wood, where they found *Thomson* well mounted, who being alone, yet rid up to our party desperatly, shot the Cornet, wounded another and retreated to his Bush, having also received two shots, when they began againe to draw neere unto him, he charged againe with his Pistoll and Tuck, Received another shot and retreated the third time that he came up, for he said he scorned to take Quarter; Major *Butlers* Corporall had *Reynolds* his Carbine, which being charged with seven Bullets gave *Thomson* his Deaths wound. The Lieutenant of Oxfordshire troope,

troope, who joyned with *Thomſon* is likewiſe taken, it ſeemeth hee ſeized of the Magazine of Northampton, and the Excize money, and with thirteene men kept that wall'd Town in awe, a Towne of blew Character.

Yeſterday the Generall, Lieutenant Generall and other Officers were very nobly entertained in Maudlin Colledge at a great Feaſt, and afterwards tooke their degrees in the Schooles, receiving great reſpects from the Vice chancellor, the heads of the Colledges, and the reſt of the Univerſity,

Your moſt humble Servant,

J. R.

SIR,

I Thought it my duty, having received another pledge and token of the mercy and goodnesse of God to this poor Nation, to give you a speedy account thereof; when I came to Andover, after so tedious a march, ten Troops of the Mutineers marched from Salisbury to Marlborow, from thence to VVantage, and to the end they might get a conjunction of Col. Harrisons Regiment they lay all this day between Abington and Oxford, at a place called Blagrave, expecting to have more Troops come, but there came onely to them Cap. Pecks, and Cap. VVinthrops, and marched all the day towards Abington, some of the Quarters being 22 miles from thence; and when I came neer Abington they were marched away, being in all twelve Colours, towards Newbridge, where Colonel Reynolds, Major Shilburne and others kept the Bridge, which they would have forced; but when they saw they could not do it, they marcht up the River and got

over at a Ford neer a mile from the Bridge. Some three houres after they were gone I marched towards Bampton *in the Bush, and from thence to* Burford, *where, and in the adjacent Villages we tooke (I thinke) almost the whole party; the particulars I shall give you an account of (God willing) hereafter more exactly. Those Troops at* Salisbury *of* Col. Scroops *Regiment did wholly reject their Officers, except one Lieutenant, and two or three inferiour Officers. Sir, I hope this is none of the least mercies, I pray God you and wee may make a good use of it, it will be your glory and your honour to settle this poor Nation upon foundations of Justice and Righteousnesse; and I hope this mercy will the more encourage you to doe so: for the more people, how ever deluded by some cunning and turbulent spirits, yet they may see you will improve your power for their good, and then your Enemies shall be found lyars, which I am confident you will: so I cease your further trouble, and remaine*

Your most humble servant,

Burford, May 14. *midnight*, 1649. THO. FAIRFAX.

For the Honourable *William Lenthall*, Esq. Speaker of the honourable House of Commons.

An

AN Account in generall is already ſent of the ſurprizing and diſperſing of the mutinous Regiments at Burford; a more particular account thereof will alſo come from the Generall very ſhortly, yet thus much in briefe. That as they were ſurprized in the very nick of time (when as one day more would have given them opportunity to have joyned with other Regiments: ſo it was very happy it was done with ſo little bloodſhed; there being but one of their party ſlaine (who fought it out to the laſt) and one of ours.

The firſt Horſe that entered the Town were thoſe under Col. *Reynolds*, the Dragoons under Col. *Okey*, and Major *Shelburne*, with the Buckinghamſhire horſe. The Generall brought up as a Reſerve his own Regiment of Horſe, and Col. *Scroop* the Reare. Cap. *Fiſher* was ſent with a Troop of Horſe on the further ſide of the Town, where he offering to charge two Troops of the Enemy (who were likewiſe in a poſture to charge him, with their Swords drawn and Piſtols cockt) upon his advance, and offering them quarter if they would ſubmit to mercy, they all ſubmitted but one, who diſcharged his Piſtoll, but did no hurt; (which two Troopes he brought to the Generall.) Cap. *Packers* Troop was very diligent, and this is obſervable, that he had but one man who joyned with this party, yet he did engage himſelfe to his Captaine to be faithfull, and it was his hap to take Col *Eyres*, who was very earneſt with him to let him goe, but becauſe of his engagement to his Captaine, he brought him priſoner to the Generall.

Yeſterday Cornet *Denn*, and Cornet *Thompſon* (brother

ther to *Thompson* the great) was tried at a councell of war, and condemned to die. *Denn* hath bought him-ſelfe a winding-ſheet, and is ſo ſenſible of his errour, that he doth not deſire to live; he doth acknowledge the juſt hand of God upon him, and is putting forth a Declaration to the world to ſhew the wickedneſſe of the deſigne, and by what means it was contrived.

There are between three and four hundred priſoners in the church, the reſt eſcaped in the darke; many of them are very reſolute, and ſay (as the Cavaliers uſed to ſpeak) it is our day to day, it may be theirs to morrow; others of them are very penitent. The Souldiers that beat up their quarters had their Horſes and Arms for prize, and Crookback (who fought it out ſo ſtoutly) being heretofore of *Maſſeys* brigade, had 30 li. about him when the Souldiers pillaged him; they had frequent advertiſement from their friends in *London* and in the *Tower*, how to manage their buſineſſe, and as ſome of them confeſt) had promiſe of money for the carrying on of their deſigne; but more of this hereafter.

The Generall and the Officers are very weary, having never in all the time of the former warr marcht 45 miles in one day (in which the Foot went a great part) and to conclude the day to beat up quarters.

Two of col *Harriſons* Troops under cap *Peek*, joyned with theſe men, and had a handſome cudgelling with the reſt, and are diſperſed.

We had one Dragoon ſhot, and ſome wounded; Col *Reynolds* made good Newbridge with a ſmall party of his own and Major *Shilbornes* horſe, and parlyed with the Mutineers, and forced them to ford

the

the River about a mile below. Col. *Reynolds* behaved himself very resolvtely both there and at Burford; more prisoners are to be tried to day.

Burford, Wednesday *May* 16. 1649.

The Generall hath sent a Warrant to all the Justices of peace in these parts to apprehend all such of these Mutineers as have escaped in the darke, and to secure their persons till they be brought to tryall.

The Copies of severall Letters sent to and from the Mutineers, since the *Generals* advance from *London*.

The Mutineers first Letter to the Generall.

May it please your Excellency,

A Proposition hath been made unto us for the service of Ireland with a declaration of your Excellencies pleasure, that it was lawfull for us, either to consent or deny, for no man was to bee forced. Although many of us were very willing to put our lives in your hands for that service, it is a breach of former ingagements to suffer many of our fellow souldiers who could not go, to be disbanded without a competent pay in hand of their Arrears to carry them

them home, and inable them to follow their occupations, we perceive such a representation of the busines, hath been laid before your Excellency, rendering us so vile in your eyes, that the next newes we heard was of forces marching towards us to subdue us, which hath put us upon an unusuall yet a necessary way, for our own preservation, least we should be destroyed, before we could be heard to speake to relinquish our officers, and flie for our present security, and now we do earnestly beseech your Excellency patiently to heare us, and to take us under your protection. All that we require is the performance of our Engagement made at Triplo-heath, *and we shall promise never to depart from your Excelencies Command in anything which shall not be contrary to the said Engagement, professing our selves very sorry, that we should have no better Esteem in your Excellencies Iudgment.*

Subscribed by the Agents for Comisary Gen. *Ireton* and Col. *Scroops* Regiment.

12 *May*. 1649.

A

Gentlemen

Gentlemen,

I Have received a Letter from you of the 12th of the inſtant, among other falſe ſuggeſtions, whereby I beleeve you have been abuſed, that is a miſtake and untrue ſurmiſe which you mention as an intendment to disband ſome of the Souldiery of the Army, without a competent pay in hand of their Arreares, it being never ſo thought, but otherwiſe taken care for, and put into as hopefull and ſetled a way as could be deviſed. I had rather pretermit, than take notice of your grounding this uſuall courſe you have taken, upon the marching of Forces towards you to ſubdue you, when as ſome if not all of you, by your diſorderly precipitance into ſuch an irregular way, the firſt and ſole occaſion of marching with Forces. However, ſince you now deſire to be heard and taken under my protection, I have given way to Col. *Scroop* to receive you under protection, and am ready to heare you in any thing concerning the engagement by you mentioned.

May 13. 1649. *T. Fairfax.*

To the Officers and Souldiers of Commiſſary *Ireton's*, & Col. *Scroops* Regiments.

WE have received two letters from your Excellency, the one by the hands of Major *White*, the other by Collonel *Scroope*, both which we have received with thankfull acknowledgement of your Lordships clemency towards us, and care over us; the consideration whereof cannot but produce in us (unlesse we should be very ingratefull) a more than ordinary respect towards your Excellency. And that we may prevent jealouses subject to be begotten by misinformation, we doe confesse that next unto the great disturbance which is likely to be the fruit of these divisions, our second griefe is that we should be forced to procure your Excellencies discontent, which doth appeare unto us by the heavy charge layed against us of Rebellion and disobedience; we do assure your Excellency, that we have done no more than our Solemne Engagement did inforce us unto; this is the testimony of our conscience in the presence of God, concerning our Engagement. We do acknowledge our selves your Excellencies souldiers, who have engaged our lives under your conduct through all difficulties, in order to the procurement of peace of this Nation, whereof we are a part: But being lately designed by lot to be divided and sent over into *Ireland*, for the prosecution of that service which we think necessary to be performed, but looking back unto our former Engagement, we find that we cannot in conscience to our selves, in duty to God, in respect of this Nation, and our fellow souldiers, undertake that service, but by such a decision as may be agreeable to our Solemn Engagement, made at *Triploe* heath,

June

June 5. 1647. where we did with one conſent ſolemnely engage one to another in the preſence of God, not to disband nor divide, to ſuffer our ſelves to be divided untill ſatisfaction were given according to a Councell of the Army conſiſting of two Officers and two ſouldiers of every Regiment, indifferently choſen, together with the Generall Officers concurring; And being now departed from our obedience to you, becauſe, (according to our apprehenſions) you kept not Covenant with us in performing the engagement, we do promiſe not to harbour any evill thought, nor uſe any act of hoſtility againſt you unleſſe neceſſitated thereunto in our owne defence, (which the Lord prevent.) All that we deſire (the ſearcher of hearts is our witneſſe) is that your Excellency would call a Generall Councell, according to ſolemne engagement, to ſit once in 14 daies at the leaſt, according to an Act made in the Generall Councell at *Putney*. In the judgement of this Councell acquieſcing, we will not refuſe to give account of our proceedings; and we will every man with cheerefulneſſe returne to our obedience, and ſubmit to your Excellency and the judgement of the Councell, in all matters that concerne us as ſouldiers. This we beg earneſtly of your Excellency to grant in reſpect of your duty to God, this Nation, and the Army; that we may thereby recover our peace, and procure the happineſſe of this Nation. This is the deſire of our ſoules; if you deny this we muſt lay at your doore all the miſery, bloudſhed, and ruine which will follow.

May it please your Excellency,

IN our last, we gave you information that the Regiments were marched to *Abingdon*, and intended to quarter there this night, but in our marching thither we found them quartered at *Wantage* and in the Villages adjacent. We have had some conference with them, and communicated your Excellencies letter, which is to be communicated to them all to morrow at the Randezvous intended at *Stanford* plain, neere *Farringdon*, at ten of the clock, where Collonell *Harrisons* Regiment had engaged to meete with them, as they said; and that there are the agents of 6 Regiments with them, & are trusted for the managing of the affaires of the whole; the chiefe thing they seemed to insist upon, is the procuring a Generall Councell, consisting of two Officers and two private Souldiers of each Regiment, as is agreeable to the Solemne Engagement, by which Councell they said they will be included in matters to which that Solemne engagement referres unto; and say that they were now justly put upon the claime of the same, being commanded to divide or disband. There are many honest men among them, and some too furious and impatient in their desires, and expresse much dissatisfaction at the disbanding Collonel *Howsons* men with a fortnights pay, and that there was the like offered to them,

them, if they would not engage for *Ireland*; ſome ſpake diſſatisfaction at the proceeding againſt Mr. *Lockyer*, and of the ſtrict dealing with the priſoners in the Tower. They think themſelves much injured by reports, which they intend to declare for the King; if there be moderate proceeding, the differences may probably be taken up, but certainely there is nothing more probable to prove deſtructive then furious proceeding, but we ſhall pray to God to direct your Excellency and Councell in this matter of ſuch weighty concernment, and intreat that hoſtility may be prevented, untill all other juſt meanes indefectuall; we now heare that they remove quarters from *Wantage* this night, and promiſe to direct us to their rendezvous in the morning. We have no more at preſent to informe your Excellency, but that we are your Excellencies humble ſervants.

We have given them ſome hint of the Declaration that was drawn to be printed, if your Excellency have thoughts of it, for their view, we humbly conceive it might do well to have it againſt to morrow.

May

May it please your Excellency,

WE the Officers of Col. *Ingoldesbyes* Regiment being very ſenſible of the ſad diſaſters which are like to fall upon this Nation, by the diſtractions and diviſions which are at this preſent in the Army and People of the Nation; And when we conſider that the differences are amongſt thoſe which hav alwayes fought under one Banner, in ſubduing the common Enemies of the Nation, which Enemies we conceive are againe ready to take the opportunitie (by theſe our differences) to involve this waſted and languiſhing Nation in a new Warre (if God by his Providence doe not prevent the ſame) and in regard that we are likewiſe very ſenſible of the danger and calamities which threaten to fall upon us, and the whole Nation (by reaſon of the irregular proceedings of thoſe of your Army, who have throwne off diſcipline and government (which proceedings we doe diſlike) in caſe theſe diviſions and breaches be not made up) we have humbly addreſſed our ſelves to your Excellency, that in your wiſedome, and with the advice of your Generall Councell; there may be no good way left unaſſayed, in endeavouring the making up thoſe wide breaches: And to that end we have here preſented to your Excellency ſuch things as we conceive may very much tend to accompliſh the ſame, and likewiſe may conduce in taking away the occaſion of ſuſpition of ſuch honeſt men as are perſwaded that your Excellency nor the Army will not endeavour the ſettlement of this Commonwealth, according to what your Excellency and the Army have

have often declared, but especially in the Remonstrance made at Saint *Albans*: And therefore we shall only set downe these things following, which in our apprehensions are of great concernment in the laying of a foundation to the establishment of a Government of Peace of this Commonwealth, as also to the composing of the differences now in your Excellencies Army; to wit,

First, that so short and limited a time may be fixed, wherein this Parliament shall certainly end, as may stand with justice.

Secondly, that this Commonwealth may be setled by an Agreement made amongst the faithfull People of this Nation: In which Agreement, we desire that provision may be made for the certain, beginning and ending of all future Representatives, and for the removing of Grievances.

These particulars we humbly conceive have a very necessary attendancy to the settlement both of your Excellencies Army, as also to the well-being of the whole Nation; we have therefore presented the same to your Excellencies serious Consideration, further acquainting your Excellency, that our Regiment is at present in a quiet and peaceable condition, and under good discipline, and that we may keep them so, and prevent them from falling into those irregularities that others are run into, & that we may give your Excellency a good account of this Garrison, hath been one of the grounds in offering the premisses to your Excellencies Consideration: All which we leave to the wisedome of your Excellency, and subscribe our selves,

May 14, 1649. Your Excellencies most humble servants.

WHereas through Gods mercy a mutinous Party againſt the Army, and in Actuall Armes againſt the Peace of the Nation, whereby they are guilty of Rebellion and Treaſon, are lately routed, and ſome of them taken Priſoners, the reſt eſcaped and fled, theſe are therefore to deſire you to cauſe diligent ſearch to be made after thoſe who have ſo eſcaped, whether they be found on Horſe-back or on Foot: And alſo to cauſe hue and cry to be made after them, and ſuch of them as ſhall be found, to ſecure and in ſafe cuſtody cauſe to be kept, either in Gaole, or otherwiſe, as ſhall be moſt fit for ſecuring of them, to the end, for the future ſafety of the Nation, Juſtice may be done according to Law. Given under my hand and Seale the fifteenth day of May, *Anno Dom.* 1649.

Tho: Fairfax.

To all Sheriffs, Juſtices of the Peace, High and petty Conſtables, and all other Officers whomſoever.

After the apprehending of any Perſons, by vertue hereof, I deſire notice may be given unto me with all convenient ſpeed.

FINIS.